

REMARKS

Claims 9-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Draper et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,062 ('Draper' hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

Applicant has amended the pending claims to correct various typographical errors. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce claims of the same or similar scope in a subsequent continuation application.

The pending claims recite "a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the type value identifying a set of one or more columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row." Thus, the claims relate to the structure or makeup of the data structure by identifying the set of columns of the data structure that correspond to a particular row of the data structure. In other words, each row of the same data structure may have a different set of associated columns. This is accomplished by associating a type value with each of the rows of the data structure, where the type value identifies the set of columns for the corresponding row. Applicant respectfully submits that Draper neither discloses nor suggests varying the columns of a data structure (e.g., table) among rows of the data structure.

Draper relates to storing semi-structured data in a structured manner. See title. Specifically, relational tables are used for the structured organization. See Abstract. A

relational table is generally understood to include a set of columns and rows. Each row in the relational table has the same columns as the other rows in the relational table. For example, the Examiner cites FIG. 3 of Draper, as well as column 4, lines 29-43 of Draper. As the Examiner points out, FIG. 3 illustrates a structured organization that includes four relational tables. As shown in FIG. 3, for each separate table, each row has the same columns and number of columns as other rows in the same table. For instance, the Examiner recognizes that table 62 includes one column each for storing identifiers of entities A, B, C, D, E, and G, and data for entities C and D. Similarly, table 64 includes one column each for storing identifiers for entities E and F, and data for entities F. Thus, the columns shown in Draper do not vary among rows of the same table and therefore a single data structure. While the four tables in combination form a “structured organization,” the four tables are four distinct data structures. The columns of one of those data structures do not vary with the row of the data structure.

It is also important to note that Draper neither discloses nor suggests a type value, as claimed. For instance, the type value may be indicated in a type column. Specifically, Draper neither discloses nor suggests “a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of the data structure, the type value identifying a set of one or more columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the set of columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row.” In fact, in the example shown in FIG. 3, Draper shows four separate tables, rather than defining a different set of columns among rows of the same table. It follows that Draper also does not disclose or suggest a type column for storing such a type value. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Draper fails to anticipate any of the pending claims.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited art. If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes

could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. ACTUP006).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


Elise R. Heilbrunn
Reg. No. 42,649

BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, California 94612-0250
Tel. (510) 663-1100